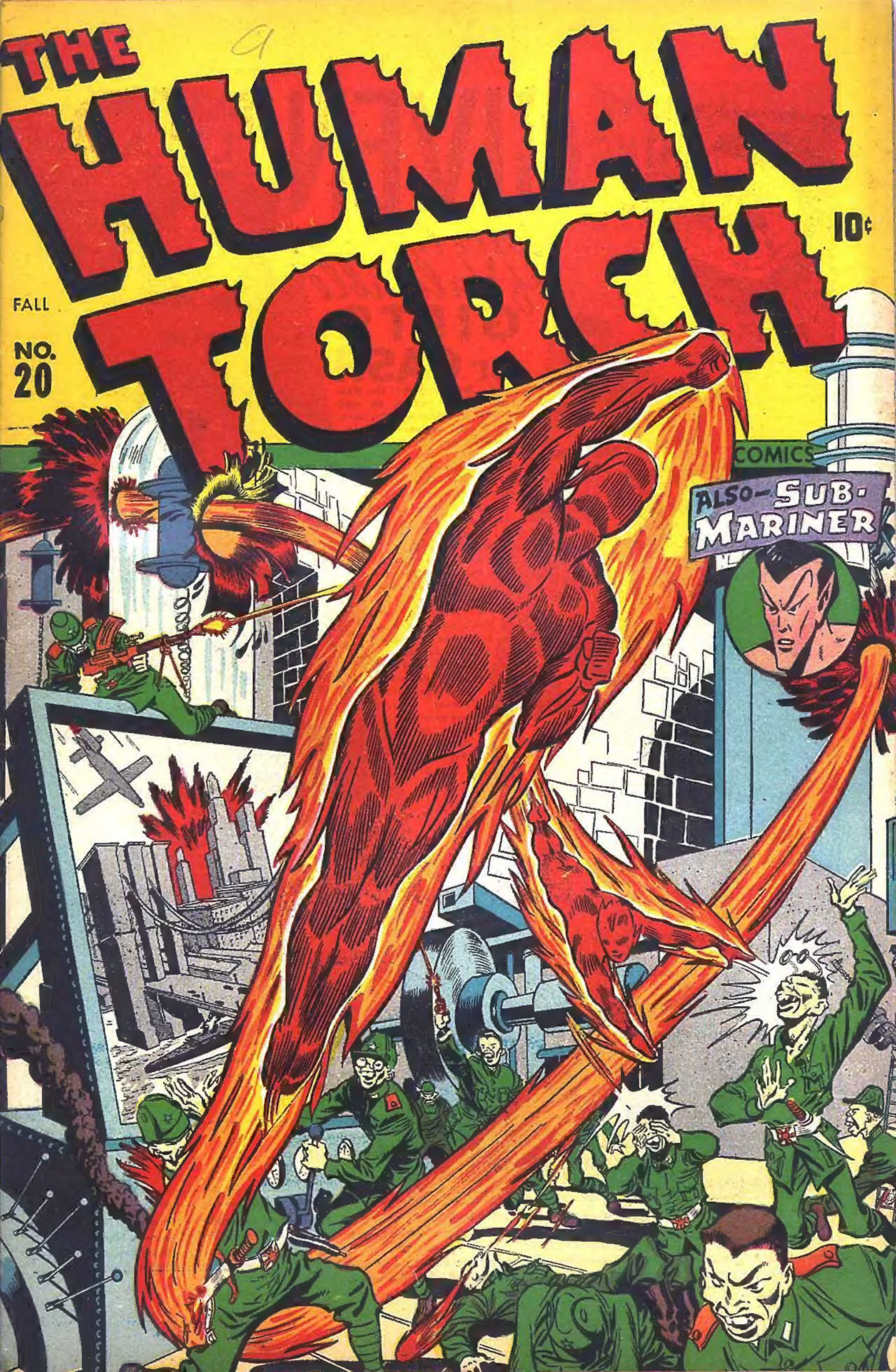
THE HUMAN TORCH
10¢
FALL
NO. 20
COMICS
ALSO—SUB-MARINER

THE HUMAN TORCH
10¢
FALL
NO. 20
ALSO—SUB-MARINER

BIRTHSTONE RING

Smart, new, dainty Sterling Silver Ring set with sparkling birthstone correct for your month date. GIVEN for selling only 3 boxes of 1 order.

GIVEN

Your Choice of Valuable GIFTS or CASH

Send No Money Now. Do like thousands of others do and get cash or valuable gifts such as billfolds, scissors, games, bracelets, rings, lockets, jewelry, hosiery and other premiums that are easily yours. Simply send the coupon and tell us what gift you would like to earn. The gift you select is given to you promptly and sent postpaid for selling just a few boxes of curiously known "Gold Crown Spot Remover and Cleaner" at 25c each and returning the money collected as explained in our free catalog sent with your first order. Here's your lucky chance to receive a valuable gift. Your friends, relatives and neighbors all need "Gold Crown Spot Remover and Cleaner" that saves many, many dollars in dry cleaning bills. Repeat orders bring cash or more gifts.

CHARMING SWEETHEART LOCKET

Choice of Dainty Heart Locket or Round Engraved Remembrance Locket with space for pictures of loved ones. Beautifully embossed, 24-inch chain. GIVEN for selling only 1 order of "Gold Crown Spot Remover and Cleaner."

Walky-Talky

Built for action. Give hours of entertainment. GIVEN for selling only 1 order of Gold Crown Spot Remover and Cleaner. Just send the gift coupon for your order to start.

Baseball GAME

Enjoyed by old and young. Dice decides the play for both teams. Substantially made. GIVEN for selling only 1 order.

Holster Set

Cowboy Outfit. Regulation Texas type Pistol and decorated holster with leather belt. GIVEN for selling only 1 order.

Set of DISHES

Platter, saucer, cups, pie plates, sugar and creamer. Complete set for 6, beautifully decorated. GIVEN for selling 1 order as per gift circular.

6 Teaspoons

Silverware you'll adore in such a lovely new pattern that you will want to complete the set. 6 Teaspoons GIVEN for selling only 1 order as explained in gift circular sent free with your order at start.

Leather BILLFOLD

This LEATHER BILLFOLD provides space for currency and protected pockets for pictures, membership cards, credit cards, etc. GIVEN for selling 2 boxes of 1 order.

Softball Set

Send No Money We Trust You

Candid Type CAMERA

Uses standard film. Makes clear, sharp snapshots. Gives years of use. GIVEN for selling only 1 order of Gold Crown Spot Remover and Cleaner.

3-piece outfit. Regulation ball, bat and cap. GIVEN for selling 1 order as per free Gift catalog.

Telescope GIVEN

Everyone enjoys this Powerful Telescope for spotting planes, hunting and excursions. GIVEN for selling only 3 boxes of 1 order.

Mail This Gift Coupon To-day

New, Friendship RING

Sterling Silver with extra wide band in forget-me-not design and 2 pendant hearts GIVEN for selling 1 order. SEND THE COUPON TODAY.

Fountain Pen

Also pencil sets. GIVEN for selling 1 order. Ask for catalog. We trust you. Send today.

FOOTBALL

Official size, very tough and sturdy FOOTBALL. GIVEN for selling 1 order as specified in gift catalog.

Just send the gift coupon for your order to start. We trust you.

GOLD CROWN PRODUCTS, - Dept. E-485 Jefferson, Iowa

Enclose this coupon in an envelope or paste it on a postcard and send it to **GOLD CROWN PRODUCTS, Dept. E-485, Jefferson, Iowa,** for order to start.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

GIFT Wanted _____

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TRADE THIS AT
MILES' 2nd HAND STORE
DAVENPORT

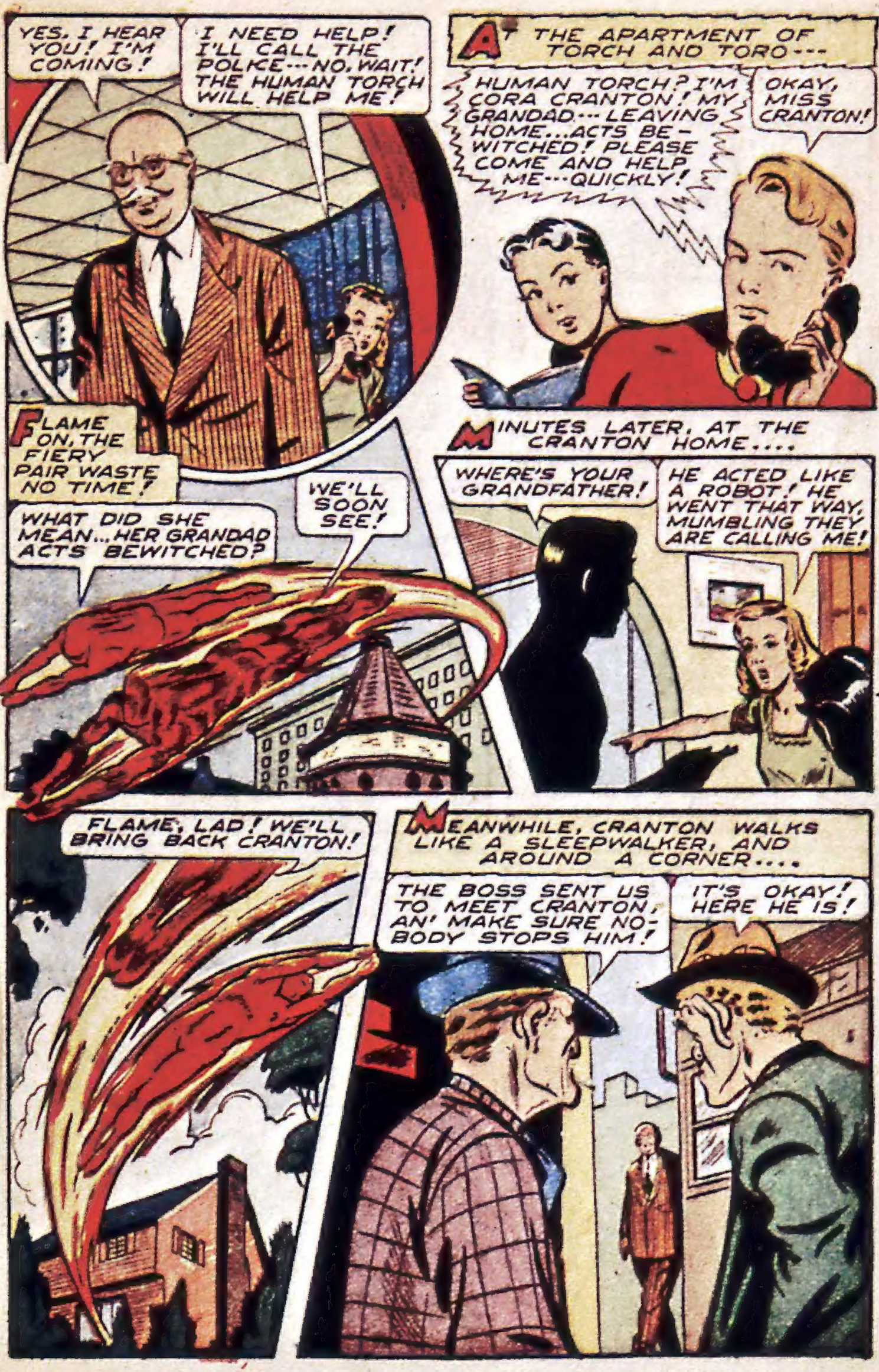
THE HUMAN TORCH

INNOCENT CHAIN-LETTERS IN THE MAIL...HOW CAN THEY BRING HARM TO ANY-ONE? TORCH AND TORO UNWIND A MAZE OF HORROR AND HYPNOTIC SLAVERY BEHIND THE CHAIN-LETTERS, AND FOLLOW A GRIM TRAIL TO THE HIDEOUS LAIR OF THE BLACK MASTER, AND HIS SINISTER

"CULT OF EVIL"

TRADE THIS AT
MILES' 2nd HAND STORE
503 - 507 BRADY ST. - DAVENPORT, IOWA

AT THE HOME OF THE WEALTHY TYCOON, JOSHUA CRANTON...
MAIL, GRANDAD!
THANKS, CORA!
A CHAIN LETTER! THOUGHT THE CRAZE HAD DIED OUT YEARS AGO!
THEY REVIVE IT EVERY SO OFTEN! WHAT DOES IT SAY?
To whom it may concern— Do not break this chain of blessing! Along with these letters goes part of your soul! Send a copy to five of your friends, using the enclosed stationery! Disobedience will be fatal!
OH WELL, I'LL PLAY ALONG! IT'LL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE TO WRITE THESE OUT!
NOW REALLY, GRANFATHER!
BUT ONLY A MOMENT LATER, AS IF HYPNOTIZED, THE MAN RISES STIFFLY..
WHAT'S THE MATTER, YOU LOOK STRANGE?
I DON'T KNOW, THEY ARE CALLING ME! I MUST GO!
...MUST GO!
OHHHH...


YES, I HEAR YOU! I'M COMING!
I NEED HELP! I'LL CALL THE POLICE--- NO, WAIT! THE HUMAN TORCH WILL HELP ME!
AT THE APARTMENT OF TORCH AND TORO---
HUMAN TORCH? I'M CORA CRANTON! MY GRANDAD--- LEAVING HOME...ACTS BE-WITCHED! PLEASE COME AND HELP ME---QUICKLY!
OKAY, MISS CRANTON!
FLAME ON, THE FIERY PAIR WASTE NO TIME!
MINUTES LATER, AT THE CRANTON HOME....
WHERE'S YOUR GRANDFATHER!
HE ACTED LIKE A ROBOT! HE WENT THAT WAY, MUMBLING THEY ARE CALLING ME!
WHAT DID SHE MEAN...HER GRANDAD ACTS BEWITCHED?
WE'LL SOON SEE!
FLAME, LAD! WE'LL BRING BACK CRANTON!
MEANWHILE, CRANTON WALKS LIKE A SLEEPWALKER, AND AROUND A CORNER....
THE BOSS SENT US TO MEET CRANTON, AN' MAKE SURE NO-BODY STOPS HIM!
IT'S OKAY! HERE HE IS!

THE TWO THUGS ARE STARTLED, AS TORCH AND TORO ZOOM DOWN TOWARD THEM---
OHO! THUGS MEETING CRANTON!
THIS BEGINS TO MAKE SENSE! SOMEBODY'S BEHIND THIS, AND THESE GENTS WILL TALK FOR US!
YIPES! THE HUMAN TORCH!
THAT IS, UNLESS THEY LIKE BEING FRIED LIKE BACON!
STOP! DA HEAT IS KILLIN' US!
SPILL IT! WHO SENT YOU?
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW!
DIS HYPO-GUN WILL TALK FOR US!
LOOK OUT, TORCH!
YA MIGHT DODGE BULLETS! BUT YA CAN'T DODGE --GAS!
THE DUO STAGGER UNDER THE UNKNOWN FUMES...

SOME TIME LATER---

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, TORO?

JUST A LITTLE DIZZY!

AD

THEY REPORT BACK TO CORA CRANTON---

YOU FAILED ---?

YES, MISS CRANTON! TWO THUGS MET HIM AND GAVE US THE SLIP! TELL ME, HOW DID YOUR GRANDFATHER GET IN THAT STRANGE STATE?

I DON'T KNOW! A SILLY CHAIN-LETTER CAME IN THE MAIL AND DAD STARTED TO MAKE FIVE COPIES FOR FUN! THEN SUDDENLY THE SPELL STRUCK HIM!

HM! CHAIN-LETTER, EH?

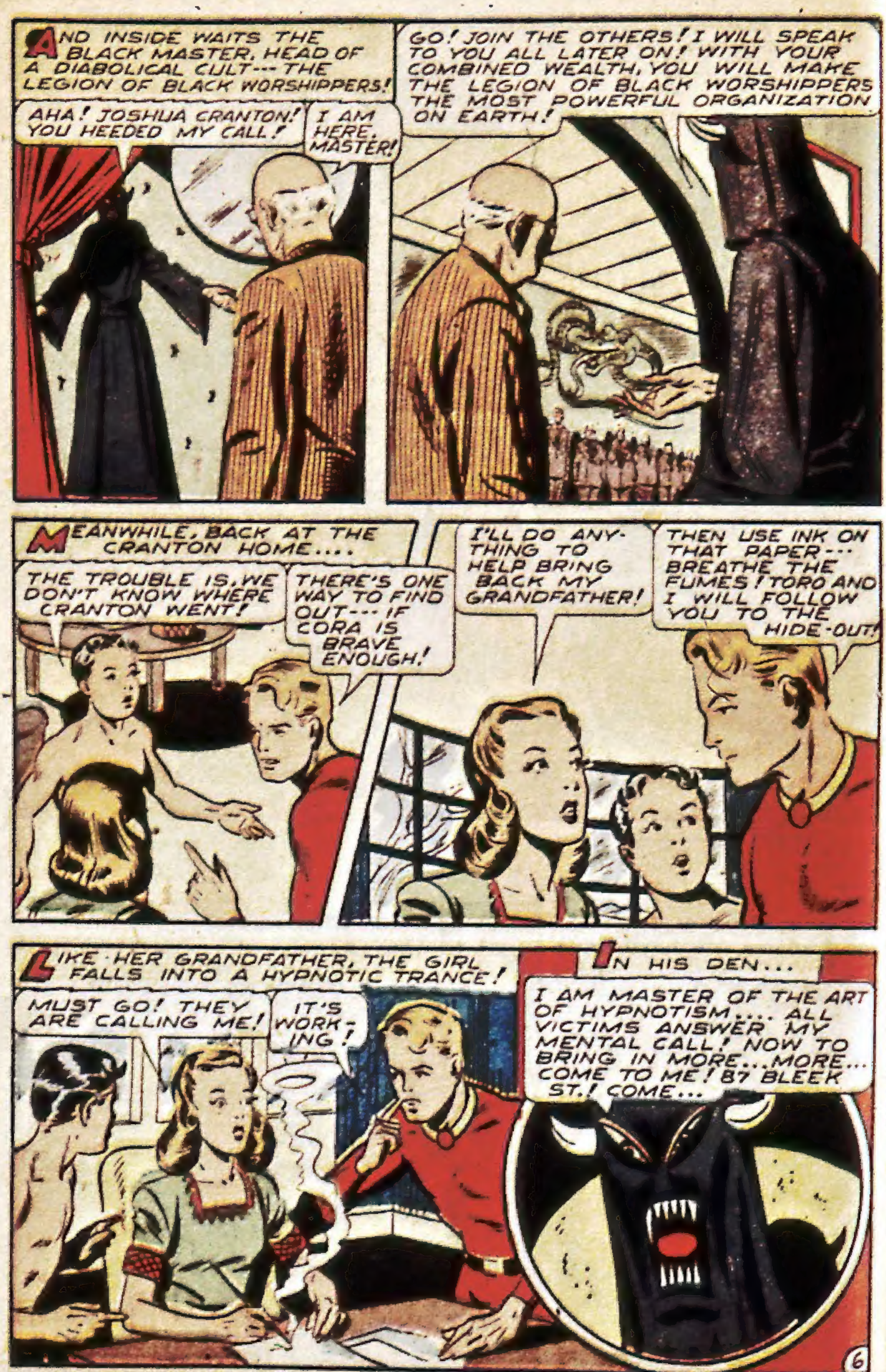
IT ISN'T SILLY AT ALL! THIS PAPER IS DRUGGED! AT THE CONTACT OF ANY INK, FUMES ARISE--- SEE?

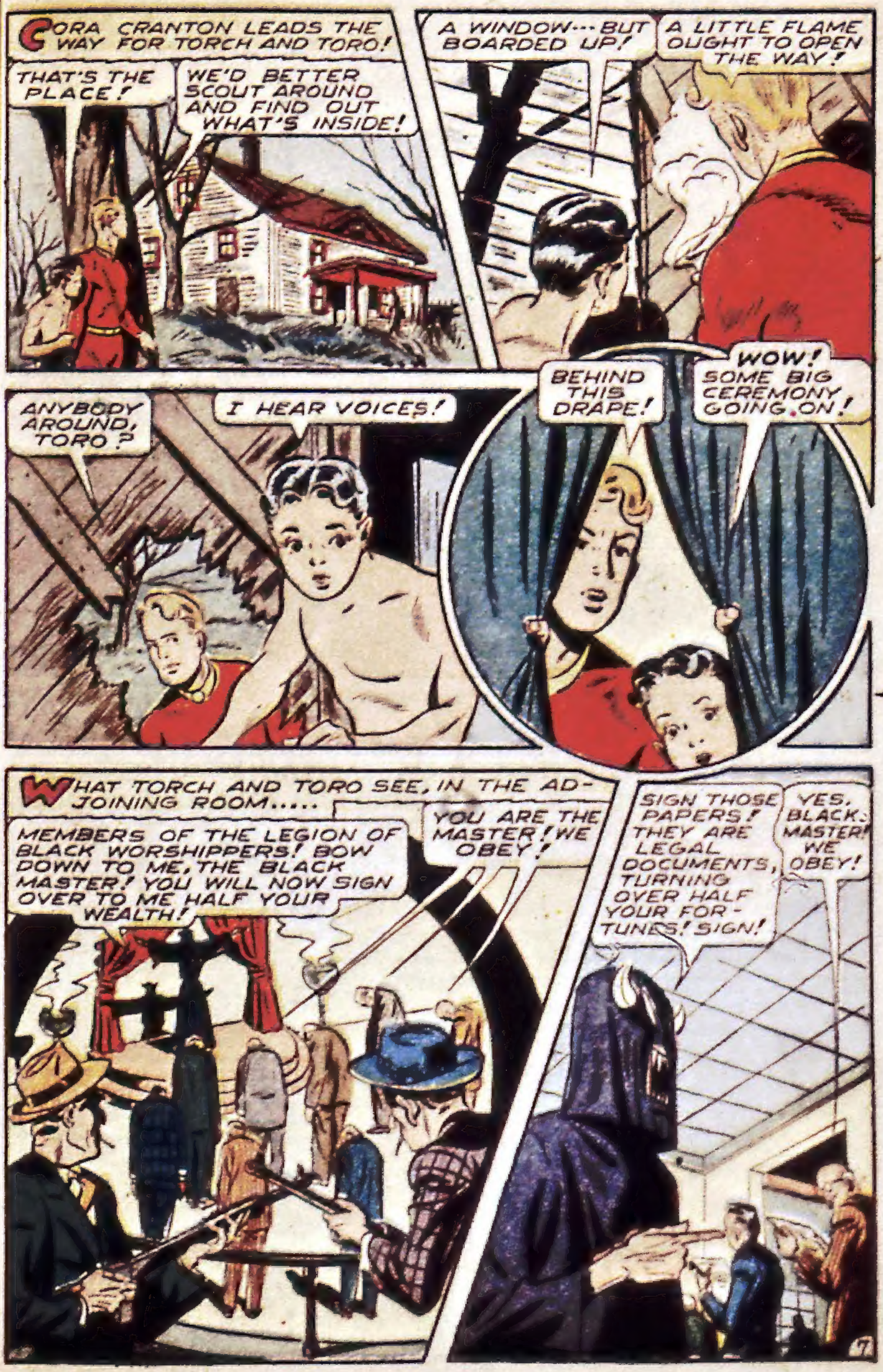
GOSH!

I'D GUESS THAT THE FUMES PUT YOUR GRANDFATHER IN A HYPNOTIC TRANCE! HE THEN OBEYED MENTAL COMMANDS OF SOME UNKNOWN PERSON--SUCH THINGS ARE KNOWN IN MEDICAL SCIENCE!

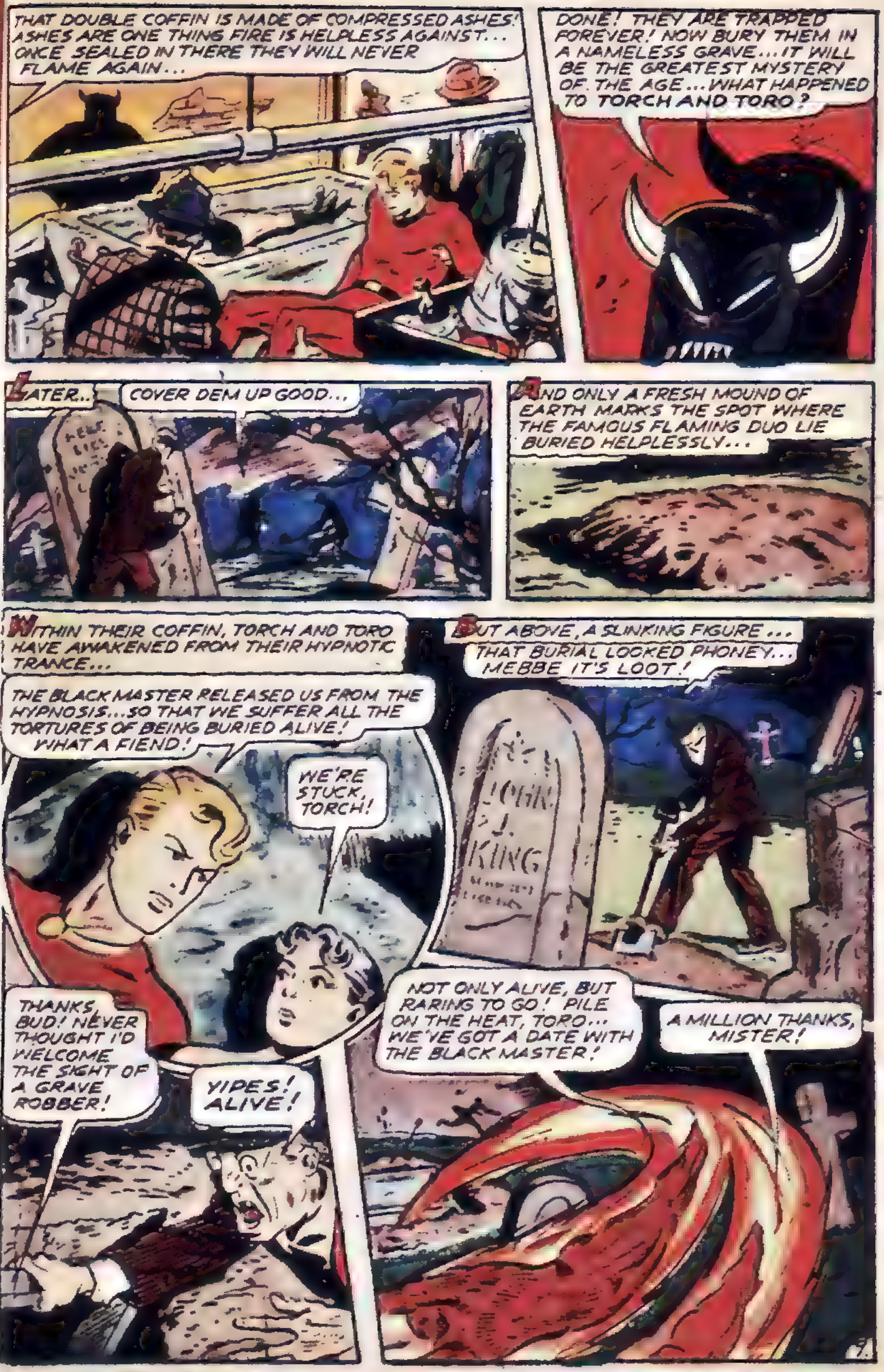
BUT WHERE DID HE GO?

LET US TURN FOR A MOMENT TO THE HYPNOTIZED CRANTON, AS HE REACHES A SECLUDED HOUSE---

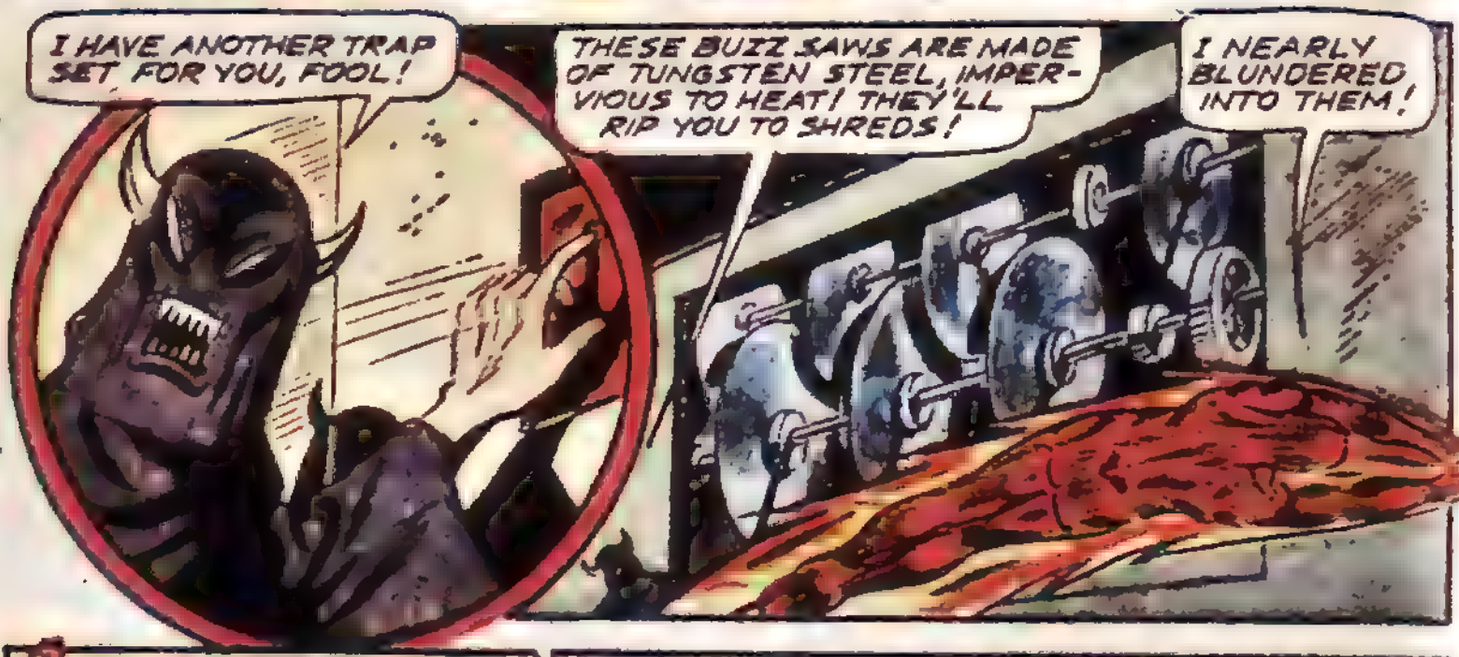

AND INSIDE WAITS THE BLACK MASTER, HEAD OF A DIABOLICAL CULT--- THE LEGION OF BLACK WORSHIPPERS!
AHA! JOSHUA CRANTON! YOU HEEDED MY CALL!
I AM HERE, MASTER!
GO! JOIN THE OTHERS! I WILL SPEAK TO YOU ALL LATER ON! WITH YOUR COMBINED WEALTH, YOU WILL MAKE THE LEGION OF BLACK WORSHIPPERS THE MOST POWERFUL ORGANIZATION ON EARTH!
MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE CRANTON HOME....
THE TROUBLE IS, WE DON'T KNOW WHERE CRANTON WENT!
THERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT--- IF CORA IS BRAVE ENOUGH!
I'LL DO ANY-THING TO HELP BRING BACK MY GRANDFATHER!
THEN USE INK ON THAT PAPER--- BREATHE THE FUMES! TORO AND I WILL FOLLOW YOU TO THE HIDE-OUT!
LIKE HER GRANDFATHER, THE GIRL FALLS INTO A HYPNOTIC TRANCE!
MUST GO! THEY ARE CALLING ME!
IT'S WORK-ING!
IN HIS DEN...
I AM MASTER OF THE ART OF HYPNOTISM.... ALL VICTIMS ANSWER MY MENTAL CALL! NOW TO BRING IN MORE...MORE... COME TO ME! 87 BLEEK ST.! COME...
6

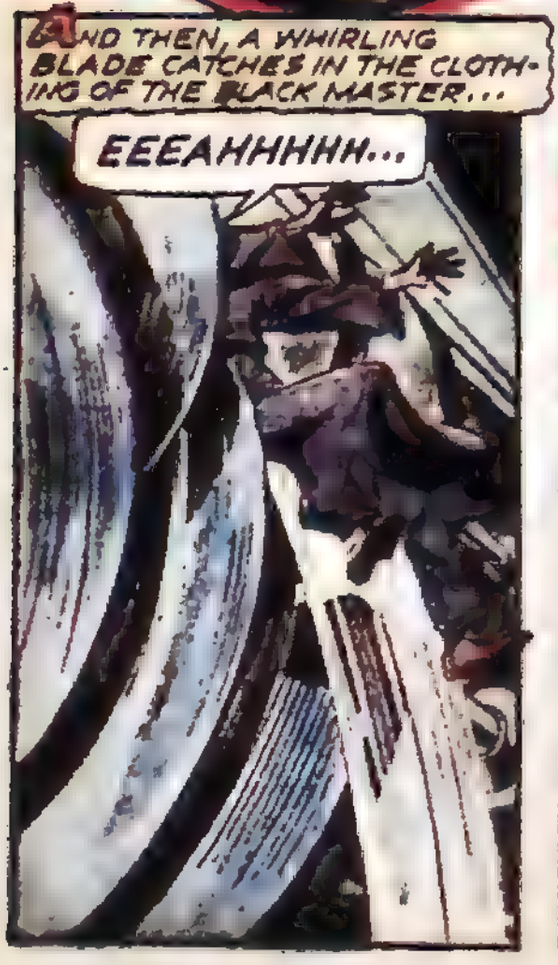

CORA CRANTON LEADS THE WAY FOR TORCH AND TORO!
THAT'S THE PLACE!
WE'D BETTER SCOUT AROUND AND FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE!
A WINDOW··· BUT BOARDED UP!
A LITTLE FLAME OUGHT TO OPEN THE WAY!
ANYBODY AROUND, TORO?
I HEAR VOICES!
BEHIND THIS DRAPE!
WOW! SOME BIG CEREMONY GOING ON!
WHAT TORCH AND TORO SEE, IN THE ADJOINING ROOM.....
MEMBERS OF THE LEGION OF BLACK WORSHIPPERS! BOW DOWN TO ME, THE BLACK MASTER! YOU WILL NOW SIGN OVER TO ME HALF YOUR WEALTH!
YOU ARE THE MASTER! WE OBEY!
SIGN THOSE PAPERS! THEY ARE LEGAL DOCUMENTS, TURNING OVER HALF YOUR FORTUNES! SIGN!
YES, BLACK MASTER! WE OBEY!

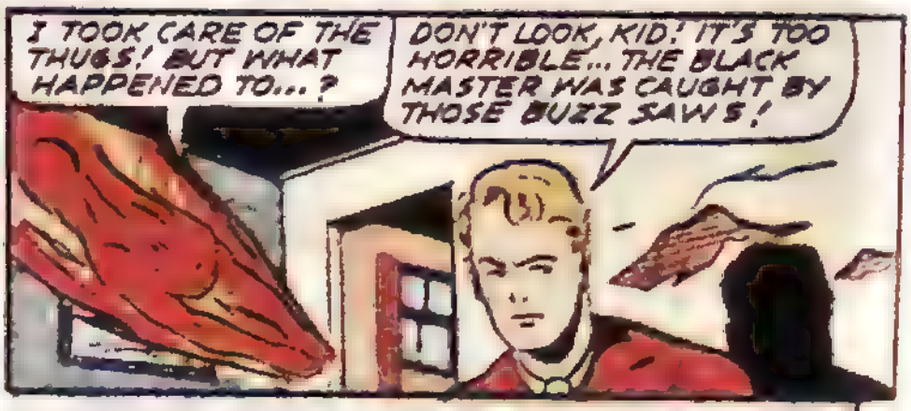
AND TWO MIGHTY HUMAN SONS RAID THE ROOM...
STOP EVERYBODY! DON'T SIGN THOSE PAPERS!
THE HUMAN TORCH!!
NEVER MIND THE SMALL FRY, TORO! WE WANT THE BLACK MASTER!
FOOLS! IN A MOMENT YOU TOO WILL DO MY BIDDING!
THIS HYPO-GAS WILL PERSUADE YOU!
--COUGH! --GASP!
CHOKE! COUGH!
THE TWO FAMOUS CRIME-FIGHTERS HAVE FALLEN INTO THE DREAD HYPNOTIC SPELL OF THE BLACK MASTER!
SEE? THEY OBEY! NOW PUT THEM IN THE COFFIN I PREPARED FOR THIS GREAT EVENT!
8


THAT DOUBLE COFFIN IS MADE OF COMPRESSED ASHES! ASHES ARE ONE THING FIRE IS HELPLESS AGAINST... ONCE SEALED IN THERE THEY WILL NEVER FLAME AGAIN...
DONE! THEY ARE TRAPPED FOREVER! NOW BURY THEM IN A NAMELESS GRAVE... IT WILL BE THE GREATEST MYSTERY OF THE AGE... WHAT HAPPENED TO TORCH AND TORO?
LATER..
COVER DEM UP GOOD...
AND ONLY A FRESH MOUND OF EARTH MARKS THE SPOT WHERE THE FAMOUS FLAMING DUO LIE BURIED HELPLESSLY...
WITHIN THEIR COFFIN, TORCH AND TORO HAVE AWAKENED FROM THEIR HYPNOTIC TRANCE...
THE BLACK MASTER RELEASED US FROM THE HYPNOSIS...SO THAT WE SUFFER ALL THE TORTURES OF BEING BURIED ALIVE! WHAT A FIEND!
WE'RE STUCK, TORCH!
THANKS, BUD! NEVER THOUGHT I'D WELCOME THE SIGHT OF A GRAVE ROBBER!
YIPES! ALIVE!
BUT ABOVE, A SLINKING FIGURE...
THAT BURIAL LOOKED PHONEY... MEBBE IT'S LOOT!
JOHN J. KING
NOT ONLY ALIVE, BUT RARING TO GO! PILE ON THE HEAT, TORO... WE'VE GOT A DATE WITH THE BLACK MASTER!
A MILLION THANKS, MISTER!

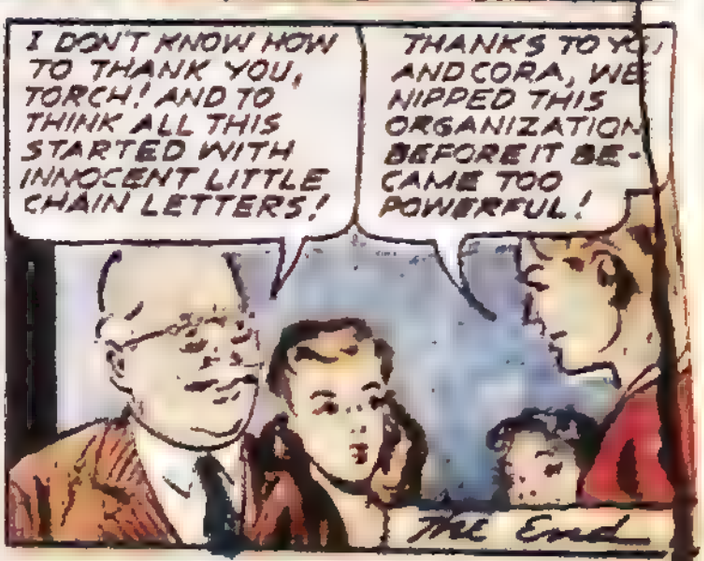
MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE DEN...
SIGN, CRANTON! I NEED YOUR MONEY FOR MY CULT... YOUR DAUGHTER WILL SIGN AS A WITNESS!
HOW ABOUT ME AS A WITNESS, BLACK MASTER?
ULPS! TORCH... BACK FROM THE GRAVE!
I'LL GET THE THUGS, TORCH!


I HAVE ANOTHER TRAP SET FOR YOU, FOOL!
THESE BUZZ SAWS ARE MADE OF TUNGSTEN STEEL, IMPERVIOUS TO HEAT! THEY'LL RIP YOU TO SHREDS!
I NEARLY BLUNDERED INTO THEM!





WITH THE DEATH OF THE BLACK MASTER, HIS EVIL HYPNOTIC SPELL IS BROKEN..


I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, TORCH! AND TO THINK ALL THIS STARTED WITH INNOCENT LITTLE CHAIN LETTERS!
THANKS TO YOU AND CORA, WE NIPPED THIS ORGANIZATION BEFORE IT BECAME TOO POWERFUL!
The End

THE HUMAN TORCH AND HIS FRIEND, TORO SOLVE A BEWILDERING MURDER AND SEND A DOUBLE KILLER TO HIS JUST REWARD IN THIS FAST MOVING TALE OF....."WITNESS TO MURDER"

GOTHAM,.. AND A CORNER NEWSTAND!
AN EYE-WITNESS TO THE KILLING? LET'S SEE JORDAN'S LAWYERS GET HIM OUT OF THIS!
DON'T LOOK NOW, TORCH, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY DID! I'LL EAT YOUR FLAME IF THAT ISN'T, WAXY JORDAN IN PERSON!
BLAH WITNESSED HOLD UP KILLING OF EMPLOYER
DAILY BLAH
SODA CLERK HELD AS MATERIAL WITNESS IN WAXY JORDAN MURDER TRIAL!
LET'S TAKE AFTER HIM!
DON'T BE NUTS! JORDAN'S TOO SMART TO BREAK JAIL! WE'LL CHECK UP FIRST! C'MON!
CHIEF DORN? TORO AND I JUST RAN ACROSS, WAXY JORDAN! WHAT'S THE SCORE? I THOUGHT YOU REFUSED BAIL TO KILLERS?
BOOKS 50¢
A PAY-BOOTH!
ASK THE COMMISSIONER THAT! HE SET THE BAIL AT A HUNDRED THOUSAND AND WAXY MADE IT! WHAT COULD I DO? I HAD TO LET HIM GO AND GORMAN THE WITNESS WON'T STAY IN OUR CUSTODY!
IT'S FOR HIS OWN GOOD!
HE WON'T LISTEN! THE TROUBLE IS, HE'S A NOBODY SUDDENLY IMPORTANT! HE WANTS TO BASK IN THE LIMELIGHT! THE WORD'S OUT THAT JORDAN'S GONNA GET HIM BEFORE THE TRIAL!
THE FOOL!

. . . . GORMAN'S AT THE GREEN PARROT! I'VE GOT TO SEE THAT HE LIVES TO TESTIFY! HOW ABOUT DROPPING IN TONIGHT AND GIVING ME A HAND?
SURE THING! SO LONG!
WELL, KID! WE'RE GOING NIGHT-CLUBBING! LET'S RUSTLE HOME AND PUT ON OUR TUX!
JORDAN, TORCH?
YES! HALF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL BE THERE!
GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! ON THE OTHER HAND, JORDAN'S PULLED SOME PRETTY BRAZEN STUNTS! AND THE STAKES ARE HIGH!
THAT SAME EVENING, TORCH, TORO AND CHIEF DORN ARRIVE AT THE GREEN PARROT!
YEAH! DORN THINKS, JORDAN'S GOING TO KILL THAT WITNESS AGAINST HIM! HE WANTS US AT THE SCENE JUST IN CASE!
THE PRESS IS WELL REPRESENTED TONIGHT!
YEAH! THEY'RE MAKIN' A ROMAN HOLIDAY OUTTA IT... C'MON! I'VE RESERVED A TABLE FOR YOU!

THAT'S, GORMAN OVER THERE WITH THE BABY-FACED DAME!
YES? WELL, JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED IT, THERE'S, WAXY JORDAN OVER THERE!
OH! OH!
LOOK, PAL! MOVE DOWN A BIT, HUH? I WANT AN ANGLE SHOT OF, GORMAN!
HUH? OH, SURE!
AS THE PHOTOGRAPHER SNAPS THE PICTURE, GORMAN SUDDENLY RISES, SWAY'S!
TORO! LOOK AT GORMAN!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED!
AND SLUMPS TO THE FLOOR...
WHAT'S UP? WHAT HAPPENED?
GORMAN'S DEAD, MURDERED! A DART IN HIS THROAT! CLOSE OFF THE EXITS, TORO!

TORO BLOCKS THE EXITS WITH A RING OF FLAME:..
THINK, JORDAN KILLED HIM, TORCH?
IF HE DID, HE'S A MAGICIAN! CHIEF DORN WAS AT HIS TABLE ALL ALONG!
DOCTOR IN THE CLUB MAKES HIS COMMENT!
DEAD FROM THIS POISON DART!
COULD IT BE, JORDAN, CHIEF?
IMPOSSIBLE! I SAT WITH HIM ALL THE WHILE!
KIND OF HAPPY, AREN'T YOU?
WHY, NOT! SOMEONE DID ME A FAVOR! WELL! I'LL BE SEEIN' YOU!
YOU BET! AND RIGHT NOW-- MULLIGAN! SCHULTZ! LINE THESE PEOPLE UP! SEARCH 'EM!
BUT A THOROUGH SEARCH OF WAXY AND THE PATRON'S OF THE CLUB, REVEALS NOTHING!
ALRIGHT! SEND THESE PEOPLE HOME! DIDN'T FIND A THING!
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING! THAT DART WAS SHOT FROM A BLOW-GUN!
H'MM! LOOK, TORO! D'YOU KNOW THE PAPER THAT PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER IS ON? I'VE GOT A HUNCH!
SURE! THE GOTHAM DAILY CHRONICLE! WHY-?
5

HE SNAPPED HIS PICTURE THE MOMENT OF GORMAN'S DEATH! THERE'S JUST THE CHANCE IT MIGHT SHOW SOMETHING WE'VE MISSED! COME ALONG!
THAT'S RIGHT, TORCH!
LATER, THE OFFICE OF THE DAILY CHRONICLE!
HERE IT IS, TORCH!
LOOK! THAT DART MUST HAVE COME FROM WAXY'S TABLE! THE PICTURE SHOWS THAT GORMAN WAS FACING THAT WAY WHEN HE GOT IT! WAXY KILLED GORMAN! LET'S GO!
IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE! CHIEF DORM WAS SITTING RIGHT WITH HIM!
NEVERTHELESS IT'S TRUE! AND I'M GOING TO PROVE IT! WE'RE PAYING JORDAN A VISIT!
WAXY JORDAN'S PALATIAL APARTMENT!
TORCH!
HELLO, WAXY! CELEBRATING GORMAN'S DEATH? IF SO, YOU'RE PREMATURE! I KNOW YOU KILLED HIM!
THEN YOU KNOW TOO MUCH! GET 'EM, BOYS!
WATCH THAT APE WITH THE EXTINGUISHER, TORO!
6

I'LL SOFTEN HIM UP, TORCH!
YOWWW!
ONE DOWN! NOW, FOR THE OTHERS!
THE OTHER THREE MOBSTERS ARE QUICKLY POLISHED OFF!
WHILE, WAXY HIM-SELF-!
ALRIGHT! Y-YOU'VE GOT ME!
YOU BET WE'VE GOT YOU! FUNNY, ISN'T IT? WITH GORMAN DEAD YOU CAN'T BE CONVICTED OF THAT HOLD-UP KILLING! BUT YOU'RE GOING TO THE CHAIR FOR KILLING GORMAN!
LATER, WITH WAXY SAFELY IN JAIL, BUT FOR GOOD!
WAXY CONFESSED TO KILLING, GORMAN! BUT HE DIDN'T SAY HOW! YOU TELL ME!
WITH THIS CIGARETTE HOLDER! WHILE YOU WATCHED, HE REMOVED A HALF-SMOKED CIGARETTE, INSERTED THIS PHONY WITH THE HIDDEN DART AND BLEW! HE PUT THE PHONY BACK IN HIS CASE, LIT A CIGARETTE IN THE HOLDER!
HOW'D YOU KNOW?
I REMEMBERED HIM SMOKING A CIGARETTE SECONDS BEFORE THE KILLING! YET THE PICTURE SHOWED HIM TO HAVE AN UN-LIT ONE IN THE HOLDER!
THE END

A GREAT DISCOVERY

CHRIS set the plane down in a tiny clearing and Rod let his breath out cautiously "Almost on a dime," he remarked, grabbing his bag and snapping open the cabin door "I guess it gets to be sort of a habit."

Chris nodded, grinned widely "I served on the other side. This is duck soup. If you need me I'll be down at the store."

Gripping his bag, Rod swung off across the small field, struck into the road leading through the village. He had no trouble finding Harry Jingle's shack, and pushed open the door In a sun-lit corner a man raised himself to his elbows to greet the newcomer.

"Howdy, Doc," Harry Jingle said through an attempted smile. "Glad you're here. This thing's beginning to raise nicky-ben."

Rod nodded, put his bag on a table in the center of the room, flicked open the straps. Sliding out of his coat, he walked to the cot. They'd been notified back at the Post that Harry Jingle had busted his leg. Of course it might have been worse.

"Someone said it was a compound fracture," Rod said, snipping off the rough bandages and splints. He investigated carefully. "It is. Afraid you'll be laid up a spell. Guess there's nothing we can do about that"

* * * * *

IT WAS like this most of the time. Working swiftly, carefully, Rod thought about this strange practice. Getting all over the northwest on cases of this kind. Some of them not so bad. Some worse. It was something Rod had sworn he'd never do again. Something he had grown almost to hate.

After Rod's quarrel with his father, a specialist back in the city, Rod had come out into the North-west. With a brilliant future before him. Doctor Wentworth couldn't understand why Rod wasn't satisfied to settle down and carry on an already established practice. "Excitement," Rod had summed it up. "Who wants to sit in a stuffy office and listen to complaints all day? Not me There are enough doctors. Too many."

So Rod Wentworth had shoved off into the North country In a small wilderness village he'd met Doctor Peters, Doc Sam to most of the people, who had taken an interest in Rod. Doc Sam was well on in years. His calls took him as far as he could go by way of Chris' plane Sometimes it was weeks before he heard of someone who needed attention At other times a native would appear at the Post to disclose that so and so had had an accident and needed help Often news reached them by way of the radio receiver-transmitter in the village

It had been Doc Sam's idea "I'm getting too old now to go rampaging around the country in one of those sky-hounds," he had pleaded to Rod. "I haven't had a vacation. If anything happens to me . . "

Just to make it convincing, something happened to Doc Sam Intestinal trouble of a not too serious nature, but it put Doc Sam into bed for a week and in the meantime there had been a call from a mine a hundred and twenty miles north

Rod Wentworth felt a little skittish about tackling the job Especially after he got there and examined the two men who had been injured in the cave-in For a stretch of twelve hours Rod thought he was going to lose them, but after that he knew he'd won his first major battle. They would pull through. Which was a feather in his cap in more ways than one

Then came the men burned fighting the forest fire, and Rod Wentworth had had to make a hurried trip to the Mounted Police Barracks He'd spent two days and a night there, working over the injured men, finally pulling them through. More feathers for his cap.

"You're doing okay," Doc Sam told Rod one evening, on one of Rod's temporary rests at the village. "And the people like you, son. That means a good deal." Sam had hesitated, then added, "They need a man like you up here. Stay on . . . Doctor Wentworth!"

* * * * *

NOW Rod finished the splint, cleaned up his implements and closed his bag. "You're to stay flat on your back until I come back," he ordered Harry Jingle.

"Okay, doc," Harry consented, his voice full of pained regret. "Guess I can't do anything about it. Where in tarnation can a guy go with a leg like that?"

It was evening when Chris brought the plane down at the village and Rod made his way to the frame building he and Doc Sam occupied. He hoped to get a good wash and some rest. But he found Doc Sam waiting for him tensely.

"We just got the news over the radio," Doc Sam explained evenly. "You'll have to go out Rod. It's the Ringby Brothers lumber camp up at White Rapids. We couldn't get too much over the radio. The jenny blew up and injured several men. You'll have to get out there." Sam appraised the face of the young man before him. He added warningly, "Rod, there's a storm coming in over that part of the country. You and Chris will have your hands full. But I've done it, Rod. I guess you can do it, too!"

Chris looked worried as they made hurried preparations. "You'd better wear a 'chute Doc. It'll be safer."

"Plane okay?" Rod met his companion's grey eyes steadily.

Chris shrugged, grinned widely. "We'll make it, don't fret."

* * * * *

BY the time they reached the Ringby Brothers site, the storm was going good. The wind had risen to gale-force, and the little plane was having its troubles. Chris' face showed white and tense, with streaks of sweat down from his forehead.

"It's down there," he shouted to Rod as they jockeyed through the ripping storm. "I'll never land. There's a flare!"

Through the murk of the clouds and the driving rain, Rod Wentworth saw the flare down on the ground; saw through a rift in the clouds the lights of the lumber camp. They shone out for a moment, then were blotted from view by the closing ranks of the clouds. It was night and black. The ship was bouncing dangerously under them.

"I can't land," Chris yelled again. "No use trying. What's next?"

Rod Wentworth closed his eyes to ease his throbbing head. He knew what came next, unless he wanted to turn back. He knew also that it was near-suicide to attempt going down there. But there were injured men waiting. The steam-jenny had blown up.

"I'll chance it," Rod yelled. "Give me a break if you can. Come for me when the storm's over. And keep your fingers crossed!"

Luckily Doc Rod Wentworth landed in a clearing. He had Chris to thank for letting him out just where the wind was right, and judging the drift to bring him down in the open. Rod remembered Chris' experiences over on the other side. Chris knew about this sort of thing.

* * * * *

THE injured men were bad. They couldn't have lasted long, Rod decided later. Both were already far gone. The jenny had drenched both with boiling steam. One man had been hurled against a tree, crushing the back of his skull.

It was his greatest test of strength and courage and ability, Rod told himself. He'd been on the go for days now. He felt empty inside, both his mind and his heart. But he couldn't go bad now. He had to save these men.

The yellow lanterns gave light and smoke, filling the room with the sickening odor of kerosene, mingled with that of iodoform and disinfectant. Rod worked methodically, precisely. He'd lost all count of time as he removed fragments of bone from the base of the skull, inserted sutures. The burns were not too bad.

* * * * *

IT WAS early morning. Rod washed slowly, eyes closed to ease the throbbing of his head. He felt numb from his shoulders down. His brain was a vacuum.

The sound of a plane motor came to him. That would be Chris back now the storm was over. Rod Wentworth straightened slowly, his dulled mind grappling with something Sam had said days ago.

"Got to have someone to take over for me, son. Getting too old for this sort of thing. An oil concern is going to start work north this fall, and they'll want someone on tap. It's too much for me."

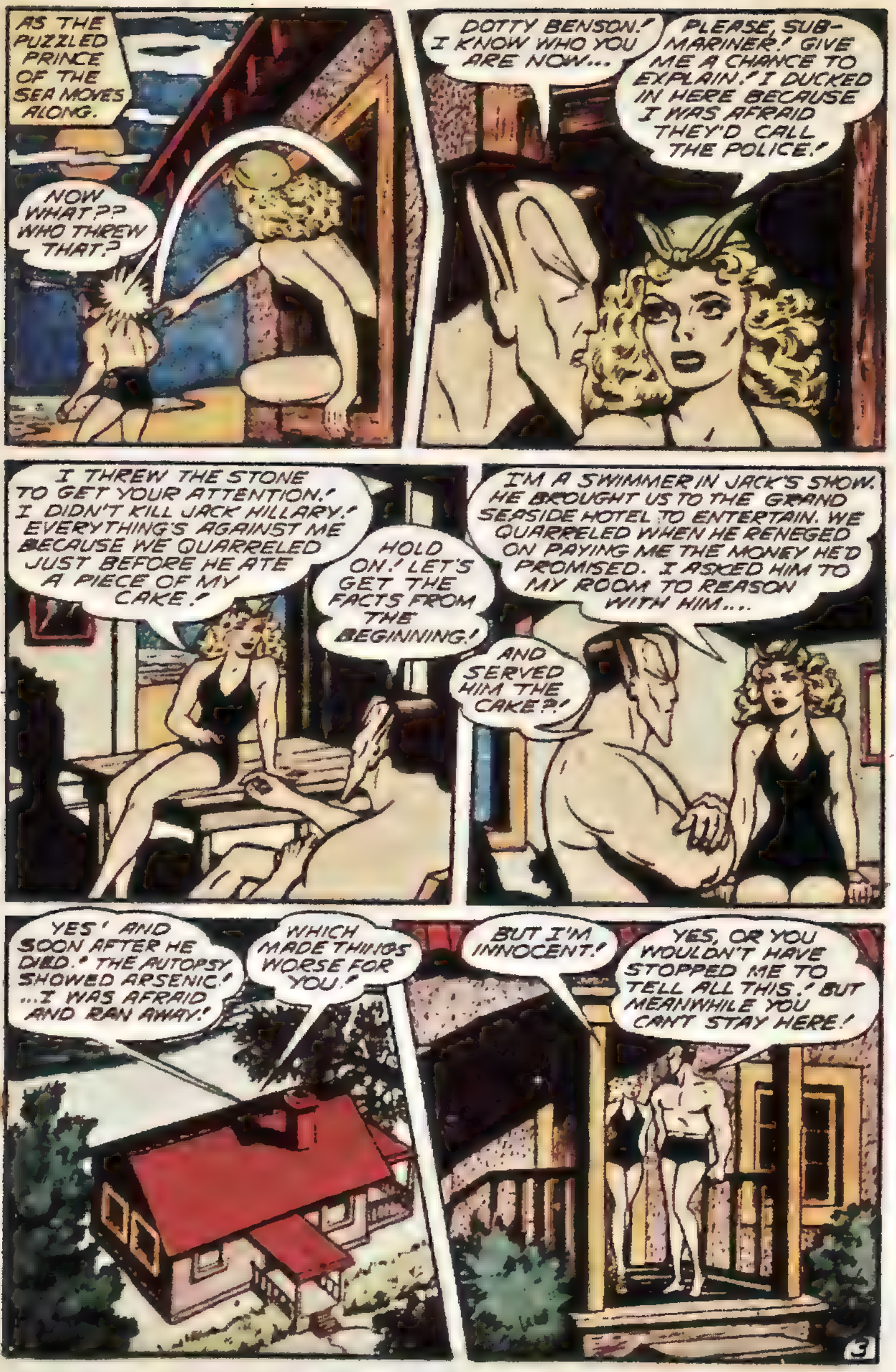
Rod finished washing, walked to the door. The smell of eggs and bacon and coffee came from the mess shack. He felt better. The two men would recover. He grinned and waved at Chris coming across the field. He'd be glad to get back. Glad to tell Doc Sam he'd take over his practice. Glad to wire the Old Man and tell him the same thing.

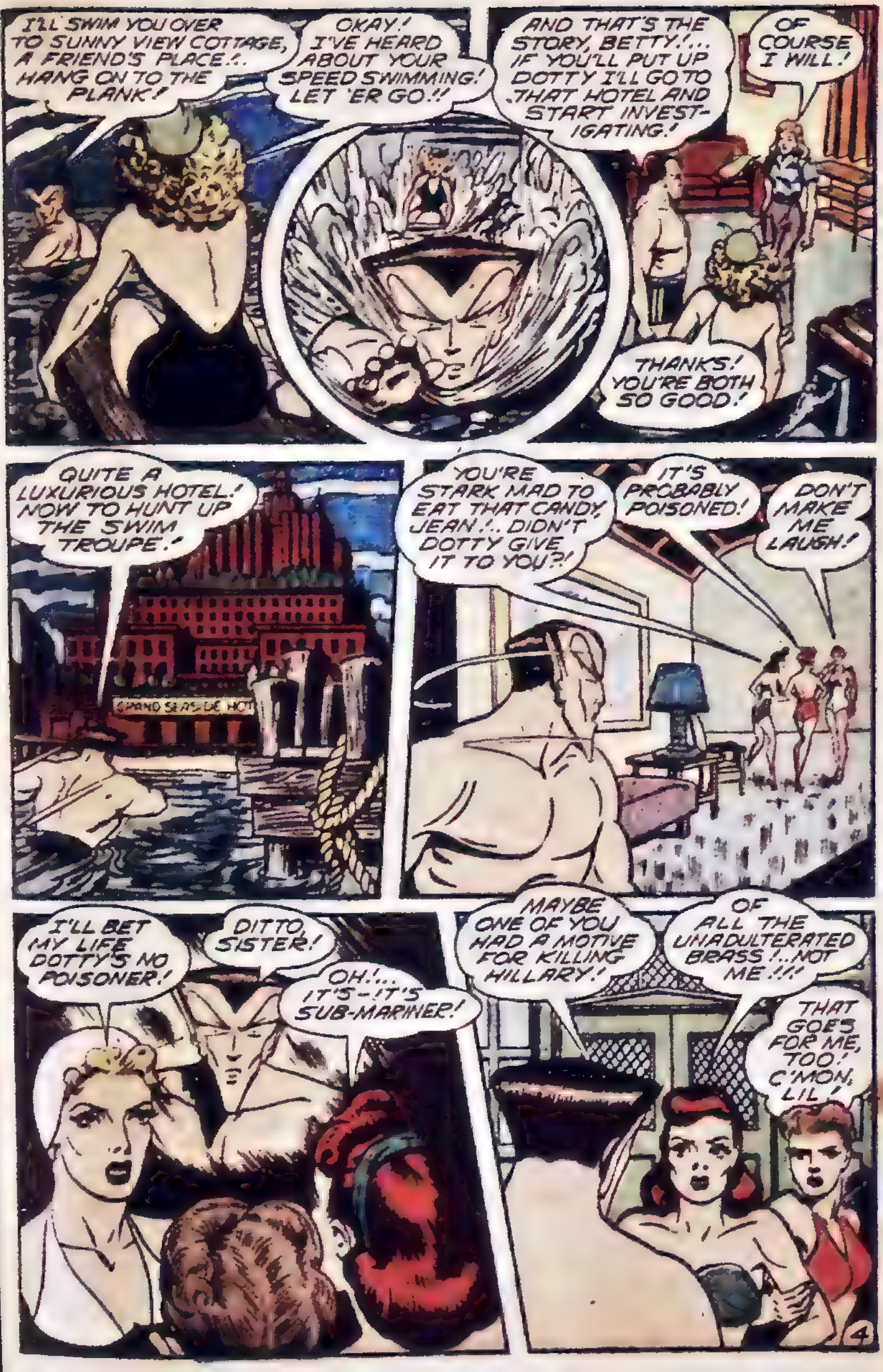
Tell him his wayward son had finally landed a man-sized job. One with plenty of action and danger to test a man's courage and skill.

THE END

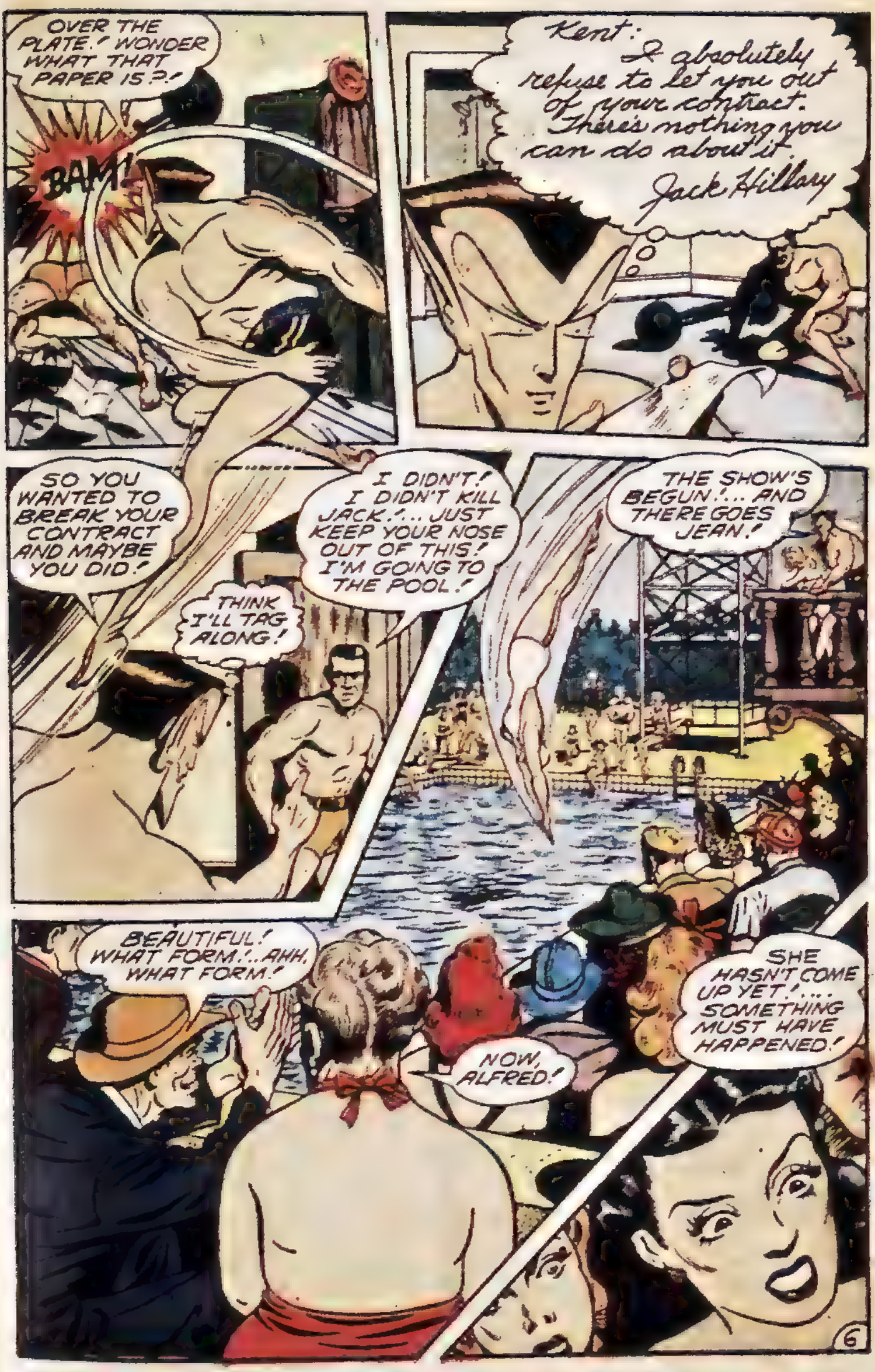
SUB-MARINER
POISON
GUILTY?.. OR NOT GUILTY?! AS POISON TAKES ITS TOLL OF A TRAVELING TROUPE, GUILT POINTS ITS FEARSOME FINGERS AT ONE PRIME SUSPECT! BUT THE DARING SUB-MARINER PROVES THAT ALL IS NOT TRUTH THAT MEETS THE EYE WHEN HE PLUNGES IN TO SMASH THE BAFFLING, PERIL-PACKED MYSTERY OF....
THE CARNIVAL MURDERS!

EVENING...ALONG THE ATLANTIC CITY SHORE..
BETTY'S VACATIONING HERE. I TOLD HER I'D DROP BY AND... OH, OH,...TROUBLE!
HELP! HELP!
PIER
A GAME OF SNATCH, EH?!!
WHY DID SHE RUN AWAY?! LOOKS LIKE I'D BETTER WAKE THOSE BABIES UP AND ASK SOME QUESTIONS!
ALL RIGHT, MUGS! WHY WERE YOU KIDNAPPING THAT GIRL?!
KIDNAPPING?!! WE WAS GONNA TOIN HER OVER TO THE COPS!... SHE'S WANTED FOR MURDER ...LOOK IN THE PAPER!!
THAT'S THE SAME GIRL, ALL RIGHT!... I'M SORRY I STOPPED YOU TWO FROM...
MURD
OLICE SEEK
OTTY BENSON
IN POISON MURDER
..FROM... CREEPING CAT FISH!... NOW, THEY'VE GONE, TOO!

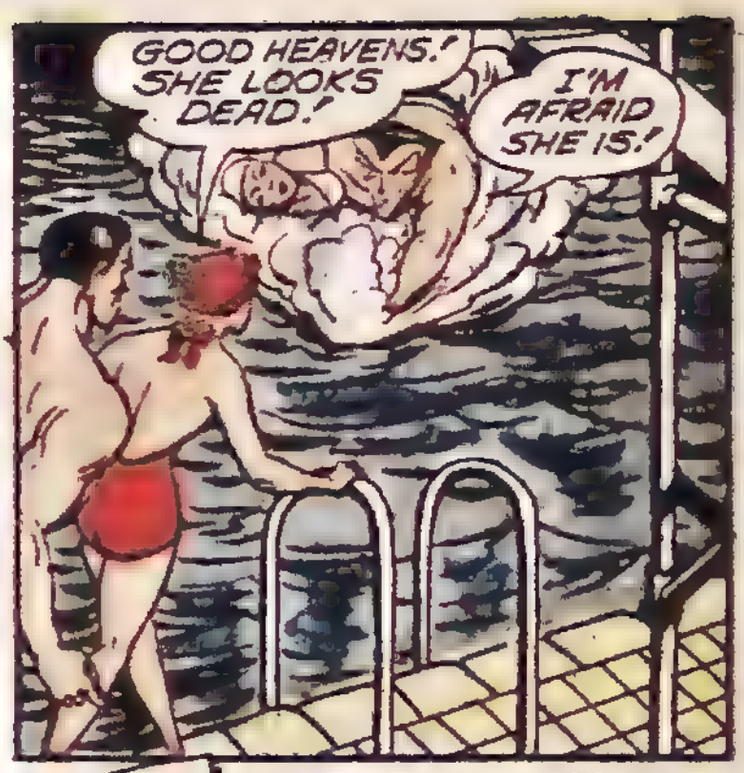

AS THE PUZZLED PRINCE OF THE SEA MOVES ALONG.
NOW WHAT?? WHO THREW THAT?
DOTTY BENSON! I KNOW WHO YOU ARE NOW...
PLEASE, SUB-MARINER! GIVE ME A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN! I DUCKED IN HERE BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID THEY'D CALL THE POLICE!
I THREW THE STONE TO GET YOUR ATTENTION! I DIDN'T KILL JACK HILLARY! EVERYTHING'S AGAINST ME BECAUSE WE QUARRELED JUST BEFORE HE ATE A PIECE OF MY CAKE!
HOLD ON! LET'S GET THE FACTS FROM THE BEGINNING!
I'M A SWIMMER IN JACK'S SHOW. HE BROUGHT US TO THE GRAND SEASIDE HOTEL TO ENTERTAIN. WE QUARRELED WHEN HE RENEGED ON PAYING ME THE MONEY HE'D PROMISED. I ASKED HIM TO MY ROOM TO REASON WITH HIM...
AND SERVED HIM THE CAKE?!
YES! AND SOON AFTER HE DIED. THE AUTOPSY SHOWED ARSENIC! ...I WAS AFRAID AND RAN AWAY!
WHICH MADE THINGS WORSE FOR YOU!
BUT I'M INNOCENT!
YES, OR YOU WOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED ME TO TELL ALL THIS! BUT MEANWHILE YOU CAN'T STAY HERE!
3

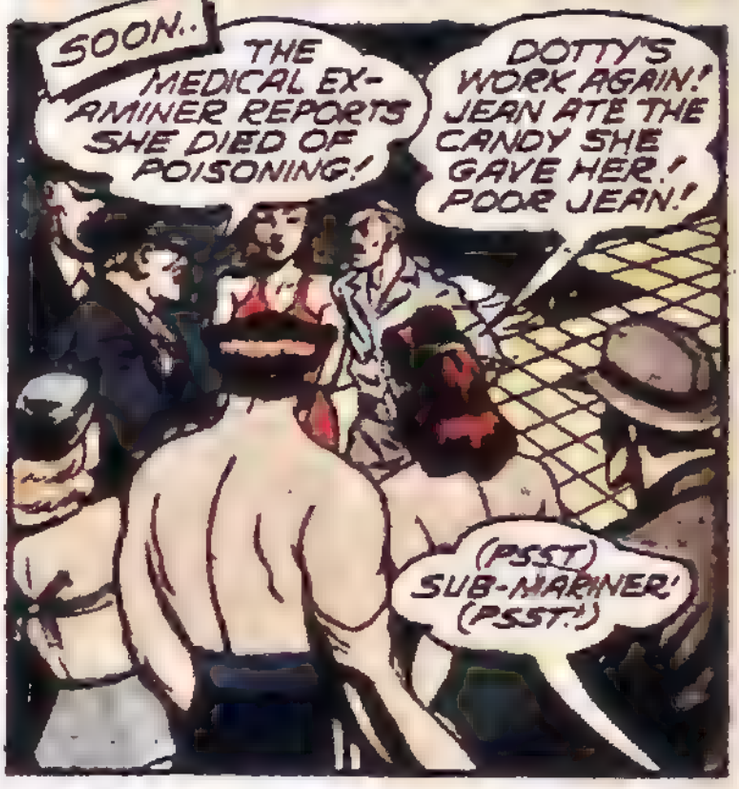

I'LL SWIM YOU OVER TO SUNNY VIEW COTTAGE, A FRIEND'S PLACE!.. HANG ON TO THE PLANK!
OKAY! I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR SPEED SWIMMING! LET 'ER GO!!
AND THAT'S THE STORY, BETTY!... IF YOU'LL PUT UP DOTTY I'LL GO TO THAT HOTEL AND START INVESTIGATING!
OF COURSE I WILL!
THANKS! YOU'RE BOTH SO GOOD!
QUITE A LUXURIOUS HOTEL! NOW TO HUNT UP THE SWIM TROUPE!
YOU'RE STARK MAD TO EAT THAT CANDY, JEAN!.. DIDN'T DOTTY GIVE IT TO YOU?!
IT'S PROBABLY POISONED!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
I'LL BET MY LIFE DOTTY'S NO POISONER!
DITTO, SISTER!
OH!... IT'S-IT'S SUB-MARINER!
MAYBE ONE OF YOU HAD A MOTIVE FOR KILLING HILLARY!
OF ALL THE UNADULTERATED BRASS!..NOT ME!!!
THAT GOES FOR ME, TOO! C'MON, LIL!
4

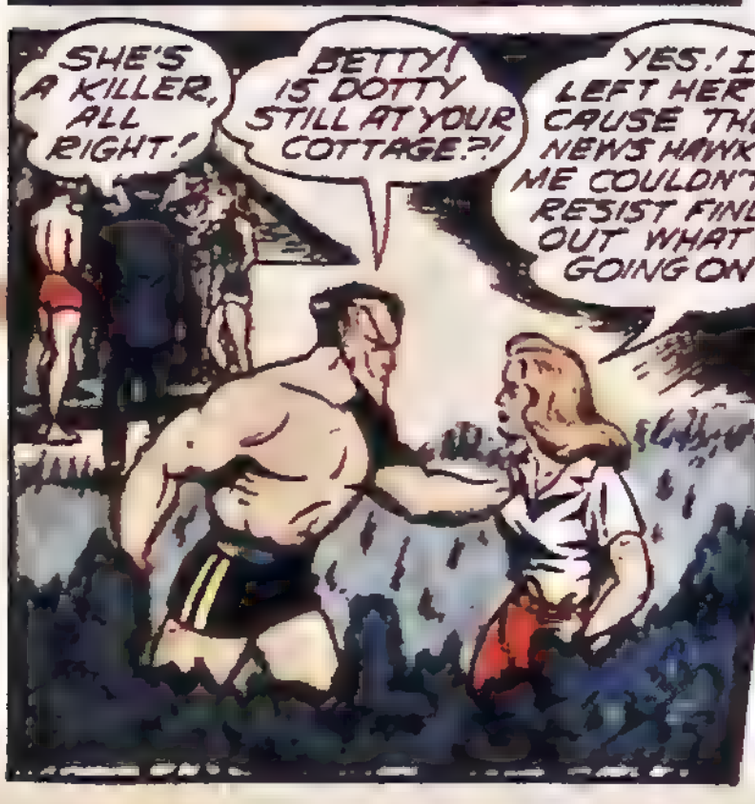
WAIT, JEAN! WHY ARE YOU SO SURE DOTTY IS INNOCENT?!
BECAUSE SHE'S A GOOD KID! THAT'S ALL!... EXCUSE ME, NOW, IT'S NEARLY TIME FOR MY STUNT DIVE!
I HEARD YOU QUESTION THE GIRLS! I'M ED MILES, THEIR TRAINER!.. THAT RED HEAD, LIL, WAS IN LOVE WITH HILLARY, BUT HE DIDN'T TUMBLE! HE TOLD ME SHE THREATENED HIM FOR THAT!
THAT'S A LIE!!
A LIE!.. LIE! LIE!.. LIE!!
SOME BALL OF FIRE SHE IS!
SLAP!
THE POLICE KNOW DOTTY'S GUILTY!.. BUT IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MORE MOTIVES ASK LARRY KENT, OUR MALE STAR! YOU'LL FIND HIM DOWN BY THE LOCKERS!
OKAY, RED!.. AND MAYBE I'LL BE SEEING YOU AGAIN!
A FINE WAY TO GREET ME!
YOU LARRY KENT?!... I'D LIKE A LITTLE TALK WITH YOU!
OH, YEAH!
5


OVER THE PLATE! WONDER WHAT THAT PAPER IS?!
BAM!
Kent: I absolutely refuse to let you out of your contract. There's nothing you can do about it.
Jack Hillary
SO YOU WANTED TO BREAK YOUR CONTRACT AND MAYBE YOU DID!
I DIDN'T! I DIDN'T KILL JACK!... JUST KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF THIS! I'M GOING TO THE POOL!
THINK I'LL TAG ALONG!
THE SHOW'S BEGUN!... AND THERE GOES JEAN!
BEAUTIFUL! WHAT FORM!..AHH, WHAT FORM!
NOW, ALFRED!
SHE HASN'T COME UP YET!.... SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED!
6

OHH! THERE'S SUB-MARINER GOING AFTER HER!


GOOD HEAVENS! SHE LOOKS DEAD!
I'M AFRAID SHE IS!

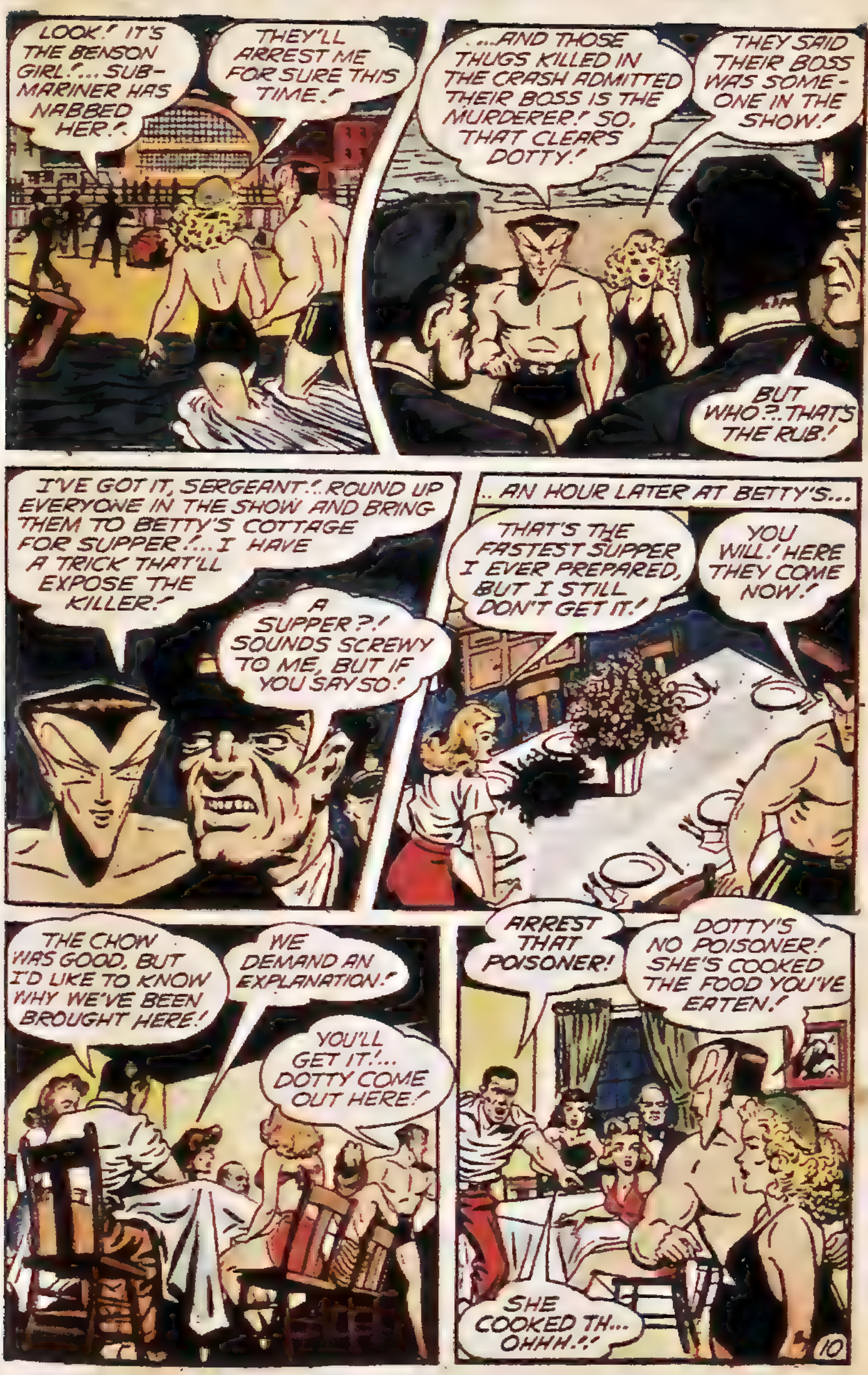

SOON..
THE MEDICAL EXAMINER REPORTS SHE DIED OF POISONING!
DOTTY'S WORK AGAIN! JEAN ATE THE CANDY SHE GAVE HER! POOR JEAN!
(PSST) SUB-MARINER! (PSST!)


SHE'S A KILLER, ALL RIGHT!
BETTY! IS DOTTY STILL AT YOUR COTTAGE?!
YES! I LEFT HER BECAUSE THE NEWS HAWK IN ME COULDN'T RESIST FINDING OUT WHAT'S GOING ON!

HEAR THAT?! DO YOU KNOW WHERE HER COTTAGE IS?!
YEAH! LET'S MAKE FOR IT! .....AND FAST!

MAYBE DOTTY IS THE POISONER! THIS SECOND MURDER SEEMS TO CLINCH IT! FIRST THE CAKE... THEN THE CANDY!
I'M GOING BACK TO QUESTION HER!
LET ME GO!
THOSE THUGS AGAIN!
BUT I THOUGHT THE POLICE?.. AREN'T YOU TURNING ME IN?!
NAW!... BETTER IF YOU WAS NEVER FOUND!.. THE BOSS IS SOMEONE IN THE SHOW... AND THE BOSS MIGHT WANTA KILL SOMEONE THERE AGAIN, SEE!..
...AND IT'D BE PINNED ON YOU AGAIN, SEE?!
I SEE! SO DOTTY'S YOUR SCAPE GOAT!
DA HUMAN FISH!
DROP THE GADGETS!
BEEEEE!
I'LL DROP HIM!
LOOK OUT, SUB-MARINER! OHHHH!

BUT NAMOR'S GREAT STRENGTH WITHSTANDS THE BLOW.
SLUGGED ME FROM BEHIND... THE YELLOW...
STAY PUT OR I'LL SHOOT!
YOU CAN SHOOT NOW!
HE'S GOT TO BE STOPPED! THIS CROW BAR!
MEANWHILE AS THE FIGHT RAGES...THE SPEEDY CRAFT IS UNPILOTED AND...
THAT CRUISER! IT'S CAREENING! IT'S HEADING RIGHT INTO US!
I'LL TRY TO SWERVE! SOUND THE SIREN!
QUICK! THERE'S NO TIME!
MISSED! SO HE'S RUNNING OUT! HA, HA!
CRASH!!
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!


LOOK! IT'S THE BENSON GIRL!... SUB-MARINER HAS NABBED HER!
THEY'LL ARREST ME FOR SURE THIS TIME!
...AND THOSE THUGS KILLED IN THE CRASH ADMITTED THEIR BOSS IS THE MURDERER! SO, THAT CLEARS DOTTY!
THEY SAID THEIR BOSS WAS SOME-ONE IN THE SHOW!
BUT WHO?..THAT'S THE RUB!
I'VE GOT IT, SERGEANT!..ROUND UP EVERYONE IN THE SHOW AND BRING THEM TO BETTY'S COTTAGE FOR SUPPER!...I HAVE A TRICK THAT'LL EXPOSE THE KILLER!
A SUPPER?! SOUNDS SCREWY TO ME, BUT IF YOU SAY SO!
..AN HOUR LATER AT BETTY'S...
THAT'S THE FASTEST SUPPER I EVER PREPARED, BUT I STILL DON'T GET IT!
YOU WILL! HERE THEY COME NOW!
THE CHOW WAS GOOD, BUT I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHY WE'VE BEEN BROUGHT HERE!
WE DEMAND AN EXPLANATION!
YOU'LL GET IT!... DOTTY COME OUT HERE!
ARREST THAT POISONER!
DOTTY'S NO POISONER! SHE'S COOKED THE FOOD YOU'VE EATEN!
SHE COOKED TH... OHHH!
10

GET A STOMACH PUMP! I'M DYING!.. ARGHH!
AHHGEE!.. SO AM I!
CALM DOWN! YOU'RE ALL ALL RIGHT! DOTTY'S NO MURDERESS! I KNOW WHO KILLED HILLARY AND JEAN!.. YOU, ED MILES!
YOU'RE CRAZY! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!
BECAUSE YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS NOT ALARMED AT THE THOUGHT OF BEING POISONED!.. NATURALLY, THE REAL POISONER WOULD HAVE NO FEAR OF DOTTY'S COOKING!
NO YOU DON'T! I'M GETTING OUT!
HE'S JUMPED INTO THE WATER!
HE WON'T GET FAR!
IF I CAN GET THAT BOAT I'LL...
BETTY DEAN

THE INFLATED RUBBER HORSE ACTS AS A BOUNCER.....
AHH! SERVICE A LA CARTE FOR THE POLICE!
SMACK!
GOOD WORK, SUB-MARINER! ALL RIGHT, EDDY, YOU MIGHT AS WELL START TALKING AND GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST!
YEAH! MIGHT AS WELL! I'M THE KILLER... YOU SEE I STOLE $10,000 FROM HILLARY!.. HE FOUND OUT, BUT BECAUSE OF OUR LIFE LONG FRIENDSHIP HE GAVE ME TWENTY HOURS TO RETURN IT.....
BUT YOU CHOSE TO KEEP THE MONEY! ..AND JEAN?!
JEAN GOT WIND OF THE THEFT AND WAS TRYING TO BLACKMAIL ME!..SO I FINISHED HER OFF, TOO!
AND SUB-MARINER FINISHED YOU!... COME ALONG, MILES, TO YOUR LAST MILE!
THANKS SO MUCH, SUB-MARINER AND BETTY! ...I...I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO SAY!
SUB-MARINER! WHAT TH..?!
HE'S ALWAYS THAT WAY, DOTTY!... NEVER WANTS TO STICK AROUND FOR THE THANKS!
END
12

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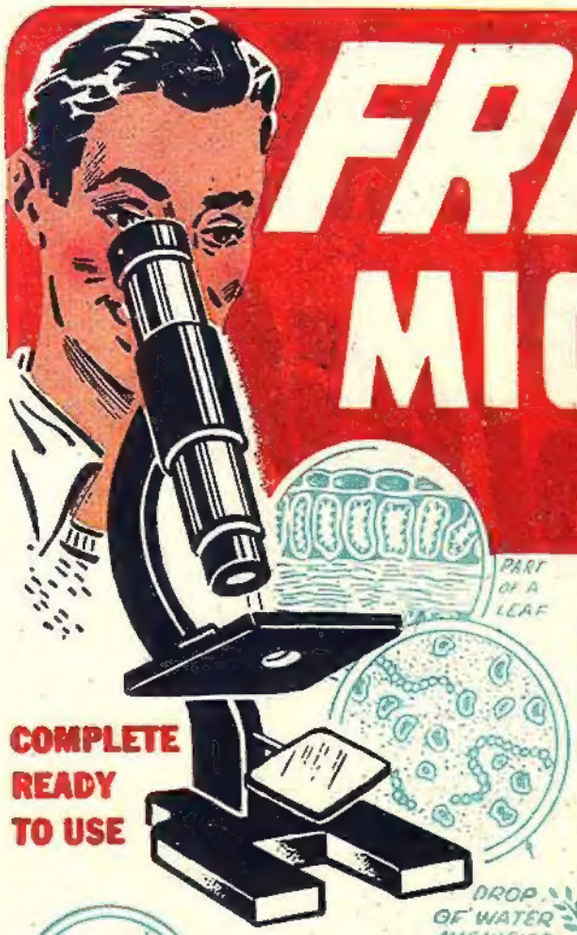

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